

FOSTER FAMILY OF THE YEAR



On May 12, KBYH awarded Michael and Christen Soursa as Foster Parents of the Year! Since becoming foster parents with Kern Bridges, the Soursa family has gone above and beyond for any and all kids placed in their home. The family has a unique gift that brings out the good in all kids. The Suorsa's strive to keep all kids from losing hope and all kids placed with the Soursa family believed in them, because they believe in the kids. The Soursa family motto is, "Regardless of the behavior, just keep loving and guiding the children". This motto is an inspiration to us all at Kern Bridges. The Suorsa family was also recently recognized by the Kern County Department of Human Services as outstanding caregivers. KBYH is not only grateful, but honored to have such a hard working family with our agency. Thank you Michael and Christen for opening up your home and making a difference in children's lives.

Thank you Dan Marble!!

KBYH's founder, Dan Marble, retired many years ago, but that hasn't stopped him from continuing to support the work of KBYH. Dan is a regular donor to KBYH and most recently paid to cover the expense of our foster parent and volunteer appreciation dinner May 12. Thanks Dan!



Dan and Nancy Marble at the KBYH Foster Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 12.

Upcoming Trainings

(please RSVP)

June 4, 9AM-1PM: "Case Management/ Accessing Children's Services" with Joe Ortega

July 13, 6-8PM: "Communication" with Lillian Adkins

August 18, 6-8PM: "Managing Aggressive Behavior" with Mark Dominguez

Ongoing Trainings

Mark Dominguez will be offering the following trainings on an ongoing basis (participants must RSVP the Monday before training):

CPR/1st Aid Recertification (*for anyone who has previously had CPR/1st Aid training*): First Thursday of every month from 10:00am-Noon and from 6:00-8:00pm.

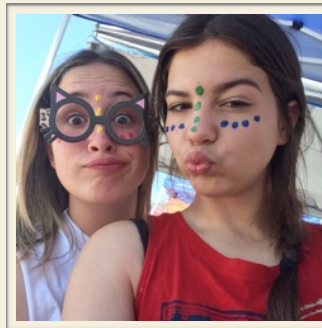
CPR/1st Aid-Initial Course (*for those who have never had the training before*): First Saturday of February, May, August, and November, 10:00am-3:00pm.

Water Safety

If you are needing to update your Water Safety Training, this is the website in order to complete the training:

<http://jeanieneal48543.wildapricot.org/page-1288890>

KBYH at Camelot Park



Thank you to Timi Mongold, the Rivera family, and the volunteers from BCHS who helped man the KBYH booth at Camelot Park's "Dia del Nino" on April 30.

Child Birthdays

- June 2: Savanna Y.
- June 7: Cheyanne C.
- June 8: Zachary L.
- June 9: Araceli G.
- June 21: Aiden S.
- June 25: Bryson D.
- June 26: Jamari N.



Foster Parent Birthdays

- June 4: Timi Mongold
- June 21: Maria Carrillo

KBYH Staff Birthdays

- June 9: James Boston
- June 14: Michael Ramos
- June 28: John Bacon

KBYH Staff Anniversaries

- Anthony Young: 1 year
- Michael Ramos: 1 year
- Tamika Worthy: 2 years
- Mark Dominguez: 7 years
- Donte Williams: 10 years
- Vernetta Carter: 10 years
- Robert Carter: 16 years

Foster Child of the Month: Goodbye Efrain and Fina!

Efrain had no experience with any school attendance until he was seven years old. In the past one and half years of attendance, he has learned to read and complete simple math. He loves school and enjoys the new friends he has met. Efrain is very talented and creative. He can turn a pile of legos into all kinds of original aircraft and vehicles. He is beyond his years in drawing expertise. Besides his talents, Efrain is a very affectionate, loving child who is willing to improve. He has begun to take better care of his toys plus is very attentive to cleaning and organizing his bedroom. We are proud of you and will miss you! Fina is the older child of four siblings. She had taken over the parenting role before she was placed in foster care. She has gradually relinquished much of her previously acquired parenting responsibilities and has learned to enjoy being a child. Fina had not attended school on a consistent basis before being placed in foster care. She was about a year behind academically but this year she has been achieving honor role grades. Also, she has earned perfect attendance and good citizenship awards. Fina is very creative and talented. She styles her hair and Efrain's hair. She enjoys completing arts and crafts projects without much direction. Fina especially enjoys making jewelry. We are proud of you and will miss you!

Foster Family of the Month: Maria Carrillo

We take pleasure in recognizing Maria Carrillo as May's Foster Parent of the Month. Mrs. Carrillo has proven herself as a dedicated and caring person who is committed to fostering. Last year, Mrs. Carrillo suffered the loss of her husband and her son within a six month period. Despite the tremendous negative impact to her family situation, Mrs. Carrillo continued to care for the children which were in her care. Mrs. Carrillo is supported by her caring and special daughter, Griselda. Griselda provides the special partnership with her mother to make things happen well in support of the children. Mrs. Carrillo has done a wonderful job caring for the needs of several children placed in her care as evidenced by significant improvements in these children. This special person readily accepts challenges without hesitation when the needs arise. We are delighted to have Mrs. Carrillo and her daughter as part of our KBYH family. Congratulations on your selection as this month's Foster Parent of the Month.

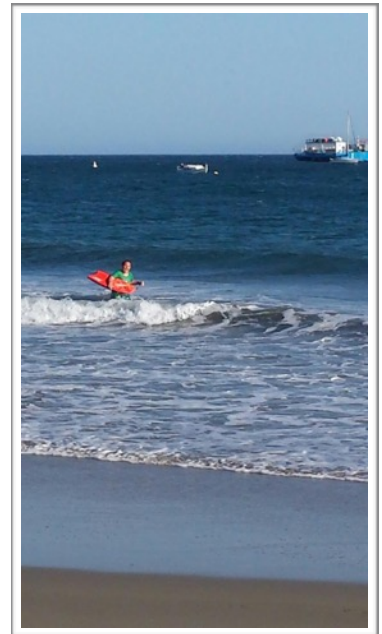
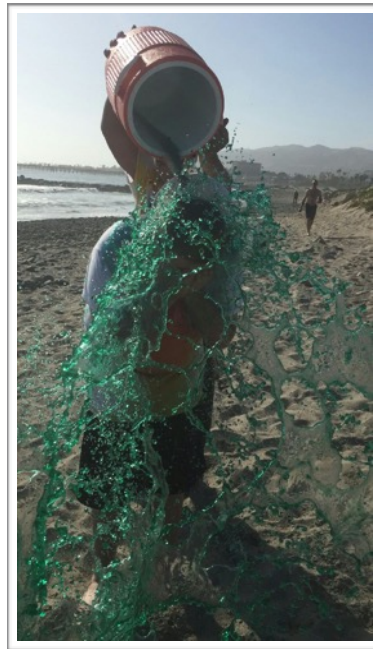
Social Worker Spotlight: Monica Dorado

This month we are proud to present Monica Dorado as Kern Bridges Youth Homes' selection of Social Worker of the Month for May. Ms. Dorado is a highly competent, knowledgeable and professional Social Worker for children placed with this agency. She has built outstanding rapport with our Social Workers in carrying out the case management of children placed with us and contributing significantly in meeting their needs. She is always available to assist and provide sound guidance needed to support family reunification efforts. She is also a pleasant, friendly, personable and customer service oriented Social Worker who has gained the respect of the Social Workers of this agency. We thank you Ms. Dorado for being there for us, always.



Oh, The Places KBYH Will Go!!!

When it comes to adventure, nothing holds back the KBYH Group Homes. From self-esteem activities to therapeutic and team building activities, KBYH embraces them all. To kick off the beginning of this year's spring events, our boys went on several high profile outings. These included a Dodgers game, the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, and a beach outing to the Santa Monica Pier, just to name a few. The boys had lots of great excitement and energy. These activities give our boys educational experiences away from the group home environment. Learning in assorted ways can appeal to various learning styles. This, in turn, affords each boy the ability to learn something from the outing, whether they are visual, auditory, or kinetic learners. A special thanks to Dave Hibbard and North Bakersfield Toyota/Scion for the donated tickets to the Long Beach Grand Prix.



The AT&T Golden Empire
Pioneers are looking for gently
used children's books for up to 6th
grade. Donations can be brought
to the KBYH offices.



Are these yours? These were left behind at
the KBYH Foster Parent and Volunteer
Appreciation dinner on May 12. Let us
know if they belong to you!



Thank you to the Alpha Omega Wellness
Center for all their ongoing support of KBYH.

SAFETY

We encourage our foster families and staff to conduct a safety assessment of homes, areas and work spaces. Some items to check:

- Hazardous materials, poisons, flammable liquids, medications, tools should be properly stored and away from children.
- Time to check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Change batteries.
- Check fire extinguishers and first aid kits.
- Check carpets to minimize tripping or slipping.
- Conduct a safety check of areas around swimming pools or Jacuzzi's to protect children from entering the pools or Jacuzzi's without adult supervision.
- Be safe.

Taken from safekids.org